

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title on page 1, line 1, with the following amended title:

AUTOMATIC LEVEL CONTROL (ALC) FOR VIDEO SIGNALS

Please replace paragraph [003] with the following amended paragraph:

[003] The reproduction of electronic video images involves the transmission of a waveform known as a video signal. Various types of video signals, such as for example composite video, S-video, and component video, have certain shared characteristics. In general, the video signal includes both video image display information and associated synchronizing information. A graphical representation of a generic video signal ~~99~~ 110 known in the arts is shown in Figure 1. As shown in the example, the video information is generally in the form of a signal having a black reference level ~~400~~ 112, and a higher level representing white ~~200~~ 114. The continuum of levels ~~300~~ 116 between the black level ~~400~~ 112 and the white level ~~200~~ 114 is then used to represent degrees of gray. The synchronizing information ~~400~~ used in formatting the signal display includes vertical and horizontal display alignment and color decoding information. The lowest value of the synchronizing signal is referred to as the “sync tip” ~~500~~ 120. The synchronizing pulses ~~400~~ 118 are positioned in portions of the signal ~~99~~ 110 that do not contain video display information, that is, below the black level ~~400~~ 112 to prevent disruption of the video image display. This is referred to as the “blank level” ~~600~~ 124. The synchronizing pulses ~~400~~ 118 shown in this example have a reference level at the blank level ~~600~~ 124.

Please replace paragraph [004] with the following amended paragraph:

[004] The video signal waveform ~~99~~ 110 from the sync tip level ~~500~~ 120 to the white level ~~200~~ 114 used in this example has a nominal peak-to-peak amplitude of 1V. The “front porch” ~~900~~ 130 refers to the portion of the video signal ~~99~~ 110 that occurs between the end of the active video interval ~~800~~ 128 and the falling/leading edge of the horizontal sync pulse ~~500~~ 118. The “back porch” ~~700~~ 126 refers to the portion of the video signal ~~99~~ 110 that occurs between the rising/trailing edge of the horizontal sync pulse ~~500~~ 118 and the beginning of the active video interval ~~800~~ 128.